8

PHILLIPS
ROSSMO
PLASCENCIA

HARLEY QUINN

FEAR STATE

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

BANE. MAN-BAT. THE ARKHAM KNIGHT. SUNDOWNER. MR. BLOOM.

...ARE ALL DEAD.

TASK FORCE Z

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ZOMBIES. AND GOTHAM. AND RED HOOD. UH-OH.

WRITTEN BY
MATTHEW ROSENBERG

ART BY
EDDY BARROWS

A NEW 12-ISSUE SERIES
OCTOBER

PEOPLE HAVE LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES EVERY DAY.

SKYDIVING...

...GETTING A NEW JOB...

...BECOMING A PARENT...

THIS ONE GUY I WENT TO SCHOOL WITH HAD A **NEAR-DEATH** EXPERIENCE AND CLAIMED HE SAW THE GHOST OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN...

...THEN HE STARTED A CULT AND IT WAS THIS WHOLE THING...

POINT IS... **ONE** MOMENT CAN CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.

ONE UNEXPECTED, EVEN **SERENDIPITOUS** MOMENT...

AND FOR ME...

SORRY, HARLEY'S NOT IN GOTHAM RIGHT NOW...

...MY LIFE CHANGED THE MOMENT I MET HARLEY QUINN.

...BUT SHE SENT ME TO KICK BUTTS AND TAKE NAMES.

FEAR STATE PART 2

STEPHANIE PHILLIPS WRITER
RILEY ROSSMO ARTIST
IVAN PLASCENCIA COLORS
DERON BENNETT LETTERS
RILEY ROSSMO COVER
DERRICK CHEW VARIANT COVER
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR

HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY
PAUL DINI AND BRUCE TIMM

YOU MAY KNOW ME AS...

...KEVIN?

JUST KEVIN?

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO WORK ON THE WHOLE ALIAS THING...

SEE, I DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS GROWING UP. I'VE BEEN CALLED TANK, ELEPHANT, LARD...AND THOSE WERE THE **NICE** NAMES.

IT'S NO SECRET THAT I'M NOT A **SMALL** MAN.

IT'S A WEIRD FEELING TO BE AT **WAR** WITH YOUR OWN BODY...

...HAVING ONE IMAGE IN YOUR HEAD AND ONE IN THE MIRROR THAT JUST...DON'T QUITE **ALIGN.**

SO, IF PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT A BIG NECK TATTOO OF A JOKER SMILE, THEY AREN'T MAKING FUN OF MY STOMACH...**RIGHT?**

...EVEN IF THAT TATTOO MEANS I WORKED FOR A HORRIBLY SADISTIC AND MANIPULATIVE MASS MURDERER...

HELP

!

YEAH...I **KNOW** THAT SOUNDS PATHETIC.

I SAID... YOU'RE ALL GOING TO NEED **HELP...**

BUT I JUST WANTED SO DESPERATELY TO **BELONG...**

...BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T GET AWAY FROM ME RIGHT NOW--

DID SOMEONE ORDER **JUSTICE...?**

...TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN... **JUST KEVIN.**

...BECAUSE IT'S ARRIVING **COLD.**

WHAT? THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

ANOTHER VIGILANTE...

BECAUSE **JUST** KEVIN WAS NEVER **GOOD** ENOUGH.

WHOA... WHAT IS IT THEY SAY ABOUT BRINGING **HOCKEY STICKS** TO A GUN FI--?

KRAAK

BUT THAT'S THE THING ABOUT HARLEY...

YOU JUST STRUCK AN OFFICER OF THE MAGISTRATE. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR--

THANKS FOR THE OFFER, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DECLINE.

WHAK

KRAK

IF YOU NEED HELP I COULD...

POOM

...WELL, SEEMS LIKE YOU GOT THIS...

KRIK

...HARLEY'S **NEVER** ASKED ME TO BE ANYTHING OR ANYONE OTHER THAN **KEVIN.**

WHOA.

THANKS FOR DISTRACTING THOSE GUYS.

MY NAME'S SAM.

I'M--I'M KEVIN.

IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT IN ANY ONE **UNEXPECTED** MOMENT...

GROVE STREET TERMINAL. ALLEYTOWN.

...YOUR STORY CAN **COMPLETELY** CHANGE DIRECTIONS.

IVY... I...I HAVE ***SO MUCH*** I WANT TO SAY...

I ***REMEMBER*** YOU, HARLEY QUINN!

I KNOW YOU'RE ***ORGANIC MATERIAL*** AND NOT ***FULLY*** PAMMY...

...BUT YOU SMELL LIKE PAM...YOU ***SMELL*** JUST LIKE ***MY*** PAM. DIRT... FLOWERS...

EHEM...

FINALLY! NOW THIS STORY'S REALLY GETTIN' GOOD...

I WENT WITH BELLA... I MEAN **THE GARDENER**... TO ALLEYTOWN TO FIND THE MISSING PIECE OF IVY...

...THAT **ORGANIC MATTER** IS GOING TO COST US OUR LIVES IF WE DON'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE THIS KEY TO UNLOCK THE **REAL** IVY.

CAN WE **STOP** CALLING **HER** A **KEY?** SHE'S A...**PERSON,** RIGHT?

SHE'S... **IVY?** OR...A **PART** OF IVY?

SHE'S NOT **EXACTLY** IVY. NOT THE IVY **WE** KNOW, ANYWAYS.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S NOT **REAL.**

...BUT THEN WE WERE ATTACKED BY SOMEONE NAMED THE **WIGHT WITCH** AND CATWOMAN SHOWED UP AND...

SEMANTICS. REAL... **NOT REAL**...ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT WE NOW HAVE THE POWER TO REAWAKEN **THE** POISON IVY.

AND I'D LIKE TO FIGURE OUT **HOW** TO DO THAT BEFORE **MORE** UNINVITED GUESTS* SHOW UP STAKING THEIR CLAIM IN **GREEN** OVER THERE.

I MAY BE UNINVITED...

CHECK OUT **CATWOMAN #36**-- BEN

...BUT DEFINITELY NOT **UNIMPORTANT.**

SERIOUSLY, KEEPSAKE... THE BIG FIGHT ALREADY HAPPENED...

I'M SORRY...ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW THIS GUY?

OKAY...THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND. MAYBE IT'S EASIER IF I JUST... **SHOW** YOU WHAT HAPPENED...

1.

...AND FOR THAT, WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO REWIND OUR STORY A LITTLE BIT.

WAIT... THAT'S *TOO FAR...*

BUT SINCE WE'RE HERE...CAN I JUST SAY I WAS A VERY CUTE BABY! LOOK AT THOSE LITTLE HAM LEGS!

2.

OKAY, BACK ON TRACK. LET'S FAST-FORWARD A BIT HERE PAST THAT TIME I WORKED ONE SHIFT AT BIG BELLY BURGER JUST BECAUSE I FELT LIKE A SHAKE AND DIDN'T HAVE THE CASH--

3.

4.

OH! WE CAN TOTALLY STOP HERE. I THINK THIS IS THE TIME PAMMY AND I--

NOOOOPE! YOU WERE *NOT* SUPPOSED TO SEE THAT.

5.

ALL RIGHT... THIS IS THE IMPORTANT BIT!

THAT'S THE *WIGHT WITCH.* TURNS OUT, SHE'S BEEN GIVIN' SELINA A HELLUVAH TIME IN ALLEYTOWN...

...AND SHE'S JUST ONE OF THE *MANY* PEOPLE INTERESTED IN GETTIN' THEIR HANDS ON *MY* PAMMY.

6.

7.

AFTER PAM CREATED A SEED OF HERSELF, THAT SEED FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE MAGISTRATE...

...UNTIL SELINA MANAGED TO STAGE A HEIST TO FREE HER... YES A *FREAKIN' HEIST*-- HOW *COOL* IS THAT?!

8.

I MAY HAVE A PHD...BUT MY DEGREE DEFINITELY DOES NOT SAY "DOCTOR OF UNDERSTANDING HOW MY SUPER-HOT, PART-PLANT GIRLFRIEND HAS A CLONE...OR... SEEDLING?"

9.

WHAT I *DO* KNOW IS THAT THE REST OF PAM... *OR THE REAL PAM?*... IS DEEP UNDERNEATH GOTHAM, AND THE *SEED* IS THE ONLY WAY TO AWAKEN HER.

?

OR, AT LEAST I *HOPE* THAT'LL WAKE HER UP...

DAMMIT, JIM, I'M A PSYCHOLOGIST, NOT A BOTANIST, ANTHROPOLOGIST, OR BIOLOGIST!

"AND NOW THAT WE'RE ALL QUITE LITERALLY ON THE SAME PAGE...WE RESUME OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING WITH *THIS* ANNOYING, SAD EXCUSE FOR A VILLAIN..."

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

DON'T SET HIM UP, BELLA...HE'LL JUST--

HE CALLS HIMSELF **KEEPSAKE.**

HEY! I WAS DOING AN INTRODUCTION.

I'M GLAD YOU ASKED! THEY CALL ME--

YEAH? THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE AN HOUR AGO LIKE THE OTHER VILLAINS TRYING TO DESTROY GOTHAM...

WE ALREADY DID THE WHOLE BIG FIGHT SEQUENCE AND IT WAS **AWESOME.**

WHEN KEVIN AND I FIRST MET THIS GUY, WE CALLED HIM ***CREEPSAKE*** INSTEAD OF ***KEEPSAKE!***

HARLEY.

NOT NOW.

WHAT? IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY FUNNY BECAUSE HIS BEHAVIOR IS ***VERY*** CREEPY.

SHUT UP!

YOU ARE SO ANNOYING... ***SO*** LOUD!

I'M ACTUALLY ***GLAD*** YOU DIDN'T WANT TO WORK WITH ME.

HE WANTED TO ***WORK*** WITH YOU? WHAT AM I MISSING...? SHOULD I ***KNOW*** THIS GUY?

I'M ***KEEPSAKE.*** I FEEL LIKE THAT WAS COVERED PRETTY WELL.

WANNABE VILLAIN. HE KIDNAPPED ME LAST MONTH AND GAVE ME SOME OLD CHEMICAL FACTORY...I ***THINK*** AS A GIFT?

...IT WAS A ***WHOLE*** THING. YOU HAD TO BE THERE.

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME!

UGH...WHY DO VILLAINS ALWAYS ***NEED*** AN AUDIENCE?

THE VENN DIAGRAM OF ***SUPER-VILLAINS*** AND ***NARCISSISTS*** IS LITERALLY JUST A CIRCLE.

YOU'VE LED ME RIGHT TO THE MISSING IVY PIECE.

WHICH MEANS ***I*** CAN CONTROL IVY... WHICH MEANS ***I*** CAN CONTROL GOTHAM!

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO MEET...

...THE CAUCUS OF CORRUPTION.

SAGE SWYNE...

...SWORD LADY...

...POLYPHONIST...

...BLANE...

...EXCLAMATION...

...AND FELLOW FRIGID!

I'M SORRY...

...DID YOU JUST SAY...

...CAUCUS OF CORRUPTION?

THAT'S DEFINITELY WHAT I HEARD.

IS THAT AN L.L.C.? DID YOU *INCORPORATE*?

WE SHOULD *TOTALLY* GET THAT DOMAIN NAME BEFORE HE CAN--

HA HA HA HA HA HA

KILL THEM!

LOOK OUT!

SPSHHH

IT'S NOT JUST ME, RIGHT? ALL OF THESE PEOPLE ARE JUST *KNOCKOFFS?*

KRAK

THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S EVEN WEARING ONE OF MY OLD SUITS!

OH GREAT...YOU ALL LEFT ME WITH THE ONE BUILT LIKE A *BRICK HOUSE.*

ARF!

SIC 'EM!

UNGH!

CHOMP

OKAY, MISS WRESTLER LADY...

HIT PUNCH HIT PUNCH HIT PUNCH HIT PUNCH

...TWO OUTTA THREE FALLS?

CATCH

YOWCH!

YOU GET AWAY FROM *HARLEY QUINN!*

RED?

RED!

HARLS.

WELL, YOU WON'T BE THE *FIRST PERSON* I BEAT UP IN FRONT OF MY GIRLFRIEND...

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE...

DO I...?

...I *DO* KNOW YOU...

YOU... WORKED FOR THE JOKER... A FORMER CLOWN.

...*THIS*... THIS IS WHAT HUGO WAS DOING AT S.A.F.E....

...*MIND-CONTROL*...

"WHAT'S WITH THE WHOLE *HARLEY QUINN* THING...?"

...YOU JUST A REALLY BIG FAN, OR IS SOMEONE IN THIS CITY *ACTUALLY* SELLING OFF-BRAND HARLEY COSPLAYS NOW?

GOTHAM CITY.

WHAT...?

OH, THIS...I--I *WORK* WITH HARLEY QUINN.

SHE ASKED ME TO TRY TO KEEP GOTHAM UNDER CONTROL WHILE SHE'S AWAY.

AND HOW'S *THAT* GOING?

WHEN YOU SEE IT UP CLOSE IT LOOKS...

SCARY?

I WAS GOING TO SAY *HOPELESS.* BUT, YEAH, SCARY.

DEFINITELY SCARY.

THAT'S WHAT SCARECROW IS DEPENDING ON...YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE IN GOTHAM BEING *AFRAID.*

BUT SOMETHING'S OFF...

TAP TAP TAP

HERE, LOOK AT THIS.

THIS IS A DIGITAL READOUT OF THE CITY WITH ALL WATERLINES CLEARLY MARKED. I'VE BEEN CHECKING THEM ALL NIGHT...

...I DON'T BELIEVE THE TOXIN IS IN THE AIR, SO IF SCARECROW *IS* FEEDING TOXINS INTO THE CITY, IT SEEMED LIKE A LIKELY WAY TO ACCESS THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF PEOPLE.

BUT, SO FAR... *NOTHING.*

EXIT

WHO *ARE* YOU...? HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE--?

BOOM

$@#&!

THAT'S...I THINK THAT'S THE *S.A.F.E.* TOWER...

S.A.F.E. HEADQUARTERS.

HUGO!

HUGO...THE BUILDING...

...SOME OF THE MEN ARE TRAPPED IN THE BASEMENT...

AT LEAST *THREE* WERE KILLED IN THE FIRST EXPLOSION AND--

MUAHAHAH

COUGH COUGH COUGH

I AM.

WHAT?! WHY...WHY WOULD YOU...?

CRANE IS DESTROYING GOTHAM, BUT WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE.

ONE AFTER ANOTHER...ALL OF GOTHAM'S ***FINEST*** HAVE LAID WASTE TO THE CITY AT ONE POINT OR ANOTHER, LOCKWOOD.

IT'S CYCLICAL...AND THIS MONTH IT'S ***SCARECROW'S*** TURN.

AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS, HIS ***AFFILIATION*** WITH THE MAGISTRATE WILL BRING THE CAPES ***AND*** THE COPS RIGHT TO ***OUR*** DOORSTEP.

I FIND IT BEST TO ***NOT*** LEAVE EVIDENCE BEHIND.

BUT... =KOFF=... WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?

YOU'RE... YOU'RE ***KILLING*** YOUR OWN ***STAFF?***

I SAID I'M NOT LEAVING EVIDENCE...

WAIT!

HUGO!

<#*@.

I USED TO BLAME GOTHAM FOR MY PAST THE SAME WAY KEEPSAKE DOES.

ACCOUNTABILITY IS HARD.

COME ON... WE SHOULD GET FAR AWAY FROM HERE.

I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE IF THERE'S ANOTHER EXPLOSION...

KABLOOM

HELP!

I THINK... PEOPLE ARE STILL IN THERE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE.

I WANTED TO FIND A WAY TO **NOT** BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE I HURT.

YOU **CAN'T** HELP THEM, KEVIN. THE ENTIRE BUILDING IS UP IN FLAMES... YOU WON'T MAKE IT OUT.

ONE MOMENT **CAN** CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE STORY...

...BUT I THINK WE KID OURSELVES IF WE THINK THOSE MOMENTS ONLY HAPPEN BY **CHANCE.**

GET IVY OUT OF HERE!

WE'LL KEEP THEM BUSY!

I'VE GOT HER!

WE DO GET A CHOICE. AND TODAY...

KEVIN! DON'T!

...TODAY I **CHOOSE** TO BE BETTER THAN I WAS YESTERDAY.

TO BE CONTINUED.

THE TIMELINE IS BROKEN—
AND ONLY THESE TWO HEROES CAN FIX IT!

AQUAMAN · GREEN ARROW

DEEP TARGET

Written by
BRANDON THOMAS

Art by
RONAN CLIQUET

October
A 7-issue series

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DARK KNIGHTS OF STEEL

YOUNG BRUCE

SWORDS. SORCERY. SUPERHEROES.

The DC Universe meets high fantasy in *Dark Knights of Steel*, a new 12-issue series from writer Tom Taylor and artist Yasmine Putri. Taylor describes the epic story as "A tale of war and love, of despair and hope, of betrayal and improbable alliances forged in battle. A story where we take heroes we know so well and see them in a way never seen before."

Placing DC's biggest icons in a completely new context obviously necessitates all-new designs for familiar heroes—we've opened up Putri's sketchbook to show how she's reinvented Batman, Superman, and Wonder Woman.

YOUNG KAL-EL

YOUNG DIANA

DON'T MISS *DARK KNIGHTS OF STEEL* STARTING IN NOVEMBER!

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